

## EXTENSIBLE AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

### CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application is related to co-pending U.S. Patent Application entitled  
"Parameter Verification in an Authentication System and Method", accorded  
serial number 10/060,620, filed on even date herewith under attorney docket  
number 10012155-1, and is now U.S. Patent No. 7,107,615,

### TECHNICAL FIELD

10 The present invention is generally related to the field of authentication and,  
more particularly, is related to an extensible authentication system and method.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 Multifunction peripherals have become more and more common in the  
workplace and in the home. Typical multifunction peripherals often combine the  
functions of printing, faxing, scanning, and copying into a single device or system.  
20 Previously, offices may have had to purchase a printer for computers to print, a  
facsimile machine to transmit and receive faxes, a scanner to scan documents, and  
a copy machine to make copies. Now all of these functions are being combined in  
a single device to save workspace and provide significant cost savings and  
efficiency. In addition, some multifunction peripherals may provide digital sending  
25 capability that enables users to scan a document into digital form and then send the  
resulting digital document.

30 While a single multifunction peripheral may provide many different functions,  
it may not be the case that all individuals should have access to all of the  
capabilities thereof. In some cases, specific individuals may be provided with  
access to specific functions using some sort of security or authentication routine  
that limits access to specific functions to specified users. However, as more and  
more different functions are integrated into multifunction peripherals or any other  
machine that limits access to specific functions in a similar manner, the security